

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

On line 2:

This invention provides methods ~~an~~ and apparatus for detecting and quantifying particulate matter suspended in a fluid. Specifically, the invention provides an integrated, affinity-binding based, analytical system comprising a platform for performing an affinity-binding based assay for specifically binding particulates including microbial cells, and a detection means for detecting the particulates specifically bound to a defined surface or chamber comprising the platform. Methods for using the analytical systems of the invention are also provided.

If the Examiner in charge of this application believes it to be helpful, he or she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (312) 913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,

**McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff**

By: 

Kevin E. Noonan, Ph.D.

Reg. No. 35,303

Date: December 1, 2003